

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 64

By Brooks H

A RESOLUTION to adopt "Tennessee" by John R. Bean as an official state song.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the General Assembly has adopted certain songs as official state songs; and

WHEREAS, over Tennessee's history, eight songs have been honored as official state songs: "My Homeland, Tennessee" (1925); "When It's Iris Time in Tennessee" (1935); "My Tennessee" (1955); "Tennessee Waltz" (1965); "Rocky Top" (1982); "Tennessee" (1992); "The Pride of Tennessee" (1996); and "Smoky Mountain Rain" (2010); and

WHEREAS, "Tennessee," a wonderful song written by the late John R. Bean of Knoxville, celebrates Tennessee's culture and natural beauty in a wistful, elegiac tone reminiscent of America's finest folk music; and

WHEREAS, the lyrics to "Tennessee" are as follows:

"Tennessee" by John R. Bean

Oh Tennessee, I long to come back home.  
I guess your dew has settled on my soul.  
Everyday I stayed away,  
You called my heart back, home to stay.  
Oh Tennessee, I long to come back home.

Oh Tennessee, I'm missing you too soon.  
Silver skies and lazy afternoons...  
Silver clouds and golden moon,  
You're Mother Nature's Tender Womb...  
Oh Tennessee, I'm missing you too soon.

Your days, have such gentle ways  
Aimless thoughts and windblown rhymes  
Your nights sing such peaceful songs.  
To a tired and weary mind.

Oh Tennessee, I've spent more than I've earned,  
But I'm much richer now for what I've learned...

Money won't buy peace of mind,  
And peace of mind is what I'll find...  
Oh Tennessee, you treated me so kind.

Welcome home  
Welcome home; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bean recorded a demo of the song shortly before his passing, thus preserving his inspiring interpretation of "Tennessee" for present and future generations of Tennesseans to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this body should formerly recognize "Tennessee" by John R. Bean as a state song; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that "Tennessee" by John R. Bean is hereby adopted as an official song of the State of Tennessee.